

Appl. No. 0/964,307
Amdt. dated October 28, 2005
Reply to final Office action of August 16, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the final Office Action dated August 16, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 14, 18-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McGuire (U.S. Pat. No. 6,186,897). In this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 23. Based on the amendment and arguments contained herein, Applicants believe all pending claims to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants amend claim 1 to explain that "determining from among a plurality of servers which of said other servers includes configuration data suitable for use by the server to be configured" is performed "without human intervention." McGuire, by contrast, states that "[in] operation, when the network devices in a compartment are to be provisioned, the identification of these devices is entered via the user interface 44." Col. 7, lines 17-20. McGuire also explains that "a user may issue the command 'get_config(switch1).'" Col. 6, lines 39-40. Thus, in McGuire, human intervention is required in the configuration process. At least for this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 7 requires that "at least one of said plurality of servers can be configured automatically once installed into said system." McGuire's network devices cannot be configured automatically. Instead, human intervention is required to perform the configuration process as explained above. At least for this reason, claim 7 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 14 requires that "at least one of said plurality of configurable devices can be configured automatically once installed into said system." In McGuire, human intervention is required to configure the disclosed network devices and thus a configuration device cannot be configured automatically. At least for this reason, claim 14 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Claim 23 is a method claim that requires two different actions depending on whether "automatic configuration has been specified." If automatic

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configuration has been specified, the method requires "automatically retrieving configuration data appropriate for the server from a device external to the server, and providing the retrieved configuration data to the server." For this particular limitation, the Examiner referred to col. 6, lines 58-63 of McGuire, which is as follows:

In response to the command, the device performs the requested operation and returns the appropriate response. In the example given above, the response would be a listing of the specific settings for each of the configuration parameters of the switch. Upon receipt of the response, the plug-in module processes the data to place it in a generic format.

This passage does not teach or suggest automatically retrieving configuration data appropriate for a server to be configured, "if automatic configuration has been specified." Nowhere in McGuire is there a teaching of permitting an automatic configuration to be specified, much less a teaching of performing two different actions based on whether or not automatic configuration has been specified. For at least these reasons, claim 23 is allowable over the cited art.

The amendment to claim 23 was merely to correct a punctuation error and not for reasons of patentability.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

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Respectfully submitted,



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